GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2252
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
India's Ranking on Women Empowerment
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's ranking on women empowerment has improved recently;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has collected any data regarding women empowerment in each State/UT and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the measures taken by the Government to further improve India's ranking on women empowerment?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SMT MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) & (b) As per the Human Development Index (HDI) as reported in the Human Development Report 2014 published by United Nations Development Programme, India ranks 135 out of 147 countries.
(c) Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner and Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Government of India are involved in collection and dissemination of data covering wide range of issues that affect women's empowerment. The report titled "Women and Men in India − 2015" by Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Government of India highlights the status of women covering health, education, work and decision making along with social obstacles in women's empowerment. State-UT wise data regarding empowerment of women is available in the website http://mospi.nic.in/Mospi_New/upload/womenMen2015/Women_Men_India-2015.html
(d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is administering the following schemes for women's empowerment:
i. Swadhar and Short Stay Homes to provide relief and rehabilitation to destitute women and women in distress.
ii. Working Women Hostels for ensuring safe accommodation for working women away from their place of residence.
iii. Support to Training and Employment Program for Women (STEP) to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalised and asset-less rural and urban poor women across the country.
iv. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) to provide micro-finance services to bring about the socio-economic upliftment of poor women.
v. National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) to strengthen the overall processes that promotes all-round Development of Women.
vi. Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for Children of Working Mothers (including single mother) to provide day care facilities for running a crÃ¨che of 25 children in the age group 0-6 years from families having monthly income of less than Rs 12,000.
vii. One Stop Centre to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence.
viii. Scheme for Universalisation of Women Helpline intended to provide 24 hours immediate and emergency response to women affected by violence.
ix. Sabla Scheme for holistic development of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years.
x. In order to strengthen the process of gender budgeting the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been undertaking various capacity building measures for the officials of the State Governments by organising training programs/workshops regularly.
Besides the above schemes, the other major initiatives taken by Ministry of Women and Child Development are as follows:
The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 regulates employment of women in certain establishments for a certain period (12 weeks) before and after childbirth and provides for maternity and other benefits.
Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahyogYojana (IGMSY) Scheme is being implemented as Conditional Maternity Benefit for pregnant and lactating women to improve health and nutrition status to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives to pregnant and nursing mothers to partly compensate wage loss both prior to and after delivery.
The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 has been enacted, which covers all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and protect them against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in public and private sector, whether organised or unorganised.
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